3. (Amended) The poxviral particle of claim 1, wherein said vaccinia virus is selected from the group consisting of Copenhagen, Wyeth and Ankara modified (MVA) strains.

B2

4. (Amended) The poxviral particle of claim 1, wherein said poxviral particle is an IMV.

5. (Amended) The poxviral particle of claim 1, wherein said target cells are tumoral cells and said heterologous ligand moiety is capable of binding a tumor-specific antigen, a cellular protein differentially or overexpressed onto said tumoral cells or a gene product of a cancer-associated virus.

6. (Amended) The poxviral particle of claim 1, wherein said heterologous ligand moiety is a fragment of an antibody capable of recognizing and binding to the MUC-1 antigen.

10. (Amended) The poxviral particle of claim 8, wherein said heterologous ligand moiety is fused to the N-terminus of the expression product of the A27L gene.

B3

11. (Amended) The poxviral particle of claim 1, wherein said heterologous ligand moiety comprises a signal peptide facilitating its insertion in the envelope of said poxviral particle.

B4

14. (Amended) The poxviral particle of claim 1, wherein said poxviral particle comprises at least a nucleic acid of interest.

B5

16. (Amended) A vector comprising at least one nucleotide sequence encoding a chimeric protein comprising (i) at least an heterologous ligand moiety as defined in claim 1, and (ii) all or part of an homologous viral polypeptide naturally localized at the surface of a poxviral particle.

17. (Amended) The vector of claim 16 wherein said homologous viral polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of the expression products of the A27L, L1R, A14L, A17L, D8L and H3L genes.

18. (Amended) A composition comprising at least one poxviral particle of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

19. (Amended) A method for the treatment of a human or animal organism by gene therapy comprising administering an effective amount of the poxviral particle according to claim 1 to a human or animal in need of such treatment.

20. (Amended) A method for the purification of a poxviral particle of claim 1 from a viral preparation containing both said poxviral particle and a wild type poxviral particle, comprising the steps of binding said viral preparation to a solid support coated